Wrestling

Saturday, December 25, 1976 ST. LOUIS WRESTLING CLUB—Single Copy 25¢

Bruiser Eyes World Throne

Uneasy Terry Funk Plots Strategy To Repel Bruiser Saturday, Jan. 1

If Dick "the Bruiser" makes his resolution come true, the new year of 1977 will begin with a new World Heavyweight Champion.

Terry Funk places the National Wrestling Alliance title and symbolic gold belt in jeopardy against "The Bruiser" at Kiel Auditorium on New Year's night — Saturday, Jan. 1 at 8:30 p.m.

The tumultuous kingpin knows only too well just how explosive "The Bruiser" is. When the two tangled last April 23 at Kiel, "The Bruiser" lost his temper and used the press table to whack Funk. Needless to say, "The Bruiser" was disqualified for this outburst.

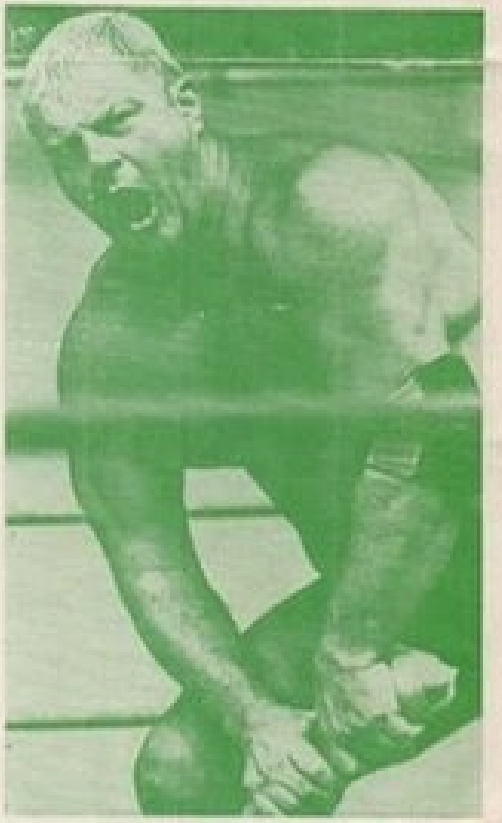
Despite the outcome, "The Bruiser" was convinced he had proven himself a tougher crusader than Funk. Of course, Dick realized the concrete evidence of that assertion would be winning the crown.

Impressive victories over "Ox" Baker, Lord Alfred Hayes and "Black Jack" Lanza have now vaulted "The Bruiser" into position to obtain confirmation of his belief.

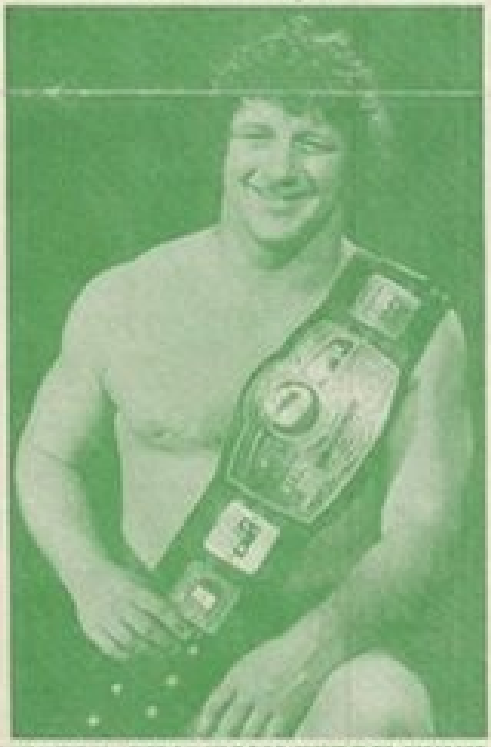
But removing Funk from grappling's throne is going to be anything except easy. Terry has always welcomed the type of knock-down, drag-out donnybrook "The Bruiser" generally provides.

Moreover, the list of those stopped by the World Champion includes Bob Backlund, Gene Kiniski, Pat O'Connor and Harley Race.

Yet who can argue about "The Bruiser's" credentials? Certainly not Terry Funk, who fully understands he could become a former world champion as 1977 dawns.



DICK "THE BRUISER"



WORLD CHAMPION TERRY FUNK

More Control Could Make Bruiser Champion

Glory and fortune are old friends of Dick "the Bruiser."

What concerns one of wrestling's most celebrated products today is becoming the World Heavyweight Champion. It is an honor which has somehow eluded "The Bruiser."

Obviously the gifts of talent and desire are plentiful for "The Bruiser." Once a mainstay for football's Green Bay Packers, "Rowdy Richard" is a natural athlete.

His uninhibited ring tactics have made him rich and famous while sending some foes to hospitals. Many possible rivals cringe at even the thought of facing Dick.

Despite this, the World Heavyweight Championship has managed

The obvious problem has been that "The Bruiser" simply fails to control himself. He was disqualified when he tried to dethrone Jack Brisco. A similar verdict was rendered when Dick attempted to upend current titleholder Terry Funk.

Perhaps "The Bruiser's" rampages were actually triggered by the desperate actions of his opponents. Realizing they could not withstand much more brutal treatment from "The Bruiser," Funk and Brisco pulled out all the stops. And so did "The Bruiser" — with truly frustrating results for Dick.

Should the day arrive when "The Bruiser" channels his bombastic instincts, he could easily be the World

Steele Takes Crack at Jack Brisco

No professional athlete is more dangerous than one who is described as "hungry."

Such is certainly the case with rugged George Steele, who gets a crack at Missouri State Champion Jack Brisco on the splendid Kiel Auditorium bill Saturday, Jan. 1.

Seldom worried about the rulebook, Steele has had many features in the Northeast. A win over Brisco would be a terrific boost.

JACK BRISCO

Brisco, a past owner of the World Heavyweight laurels, has come under increasing criticism of late. Many fans are unhappy with Brisco's growing reliance on pulling hair and punching on the break.

"Instead of griping about something other wrestlers do in every match, people should compare my win over Bob Backlund to World Champion Terry Funk's trouble with Backlund," scoffed Brisco.

Indeed, Brisco beat Backlund two straight falls Dec. 10 when a knee injury to Backlund stopped the battle. During an Oct. 8 duel, Funk got the only fall achieved during a full one hour of nip-and-tuck action with the brilliant Backlund.

Happy Holidays to All!

Promoter Sam Muchnick and the St. Louis Wrestling Club wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and an especially Happy New Year.

The holidays have been busy for Muchnick, who is negotiating with many stars. Among them are Bobby Duncum and Chief Peter Maivia.

The burly Duncum captured a 12-man Wrestle Royal at Kiel Auditorium Dec. 10, while Maivia made a quick impression with his sparkling work on the same card.

'Wrestling' Subscription Brings Home Delivery

Take advantage of the convenience available through a subscription to "Wrestling."

The outstanding publication is mailed to the homes of subscribers at least eight days before every Kiel Auditorium card.

All 1976 subscriptions to "Wrestling" have expired, so renewals must be made now if every issue is to be received.

Of course, new subscriptions are also being accepted. Regardless when they are started, all subscriptions expire with the edition for the final Kiel bill of 1977.

This issue is a "bonus" for those who have not renewed. Beginning with the Jan. 21 program, only those who have renewed or made new subscriptions will get "Wrestling" mailed to their homes.

Missouri and Illinois fans are charged $2.00. Those from other states must pay $5.00. After Feb. 15, the rates go up to $3.00 and $6.00 respectively.

Send name, address, Zip Code and correct payment to:

St. Louis Wrestling Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 7164
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Indicate whether this is a new subscription or a renewal from 1976. Print all data clearly.

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THE PROGRAM

SATURDAY, JAN. 1, 1977
— 8:10 p.m. —
KIEL AUDITORIUM
14th & Market Sts. St. Louis, Mo.

THE MAIN EVENT
For the World Heavyweight Championship
as Recognized by
the National Wrestling Alliance

Terry Funk
World Heavyweight Champion
245, Amarillo, Texas

Vs.

Dick "the Bruiser"
250, Reno, Nevada
Two out of three falls, one hour time limit.
Two minute rest period between falls.

THE SPECIAL ATTRACTION
For the Missouri State Championship

Jack Brisco
Missouri State Champion
236, Blackwell, Okla.

Vs.

George Steele
255, Detroit, Mich.
One fall, one hour time limit.

THE ADDED ATTRACTION

Pat O'Connor
Former World Champion
235, Wellington, N. Z.

Vs.

"Superstar" Billy Graham
270, Paradise Valley, Ariz.
One fall, 30 minute time limit.

THE THIRD BOUT
An Australian Tag Team Match

Ernie Ladd
315, Houston, Texas
and
"Black Jack" Lanza
260, Laredo, Texas

Vs.

Guy Mitchell
244, Hamilton, Canada
and
Rufus R. Jones
270, Boston, Mass
One fall, 20 minute time limit.

THE SECOND MATCH

Ted Oates 232, Columbus, Ga.
Vs.
Bob Geigel 240, Algona, Ia.
One fall, 20 minute time limit.

THE OPENING BOUT
An Australian Tag Team Match

Joe Palardy 234, Tampa, Fla.
and
"Bulldog" Bob Brown 241, Winnipeg, Canada

Vs.

Akio Sato 232, Yokohama, Japan
and
Buck Zumhofe 228, Minneapolis, Minn.

Two out of three falls, 30 minute time limit.
Two minute rest period between falls.

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE. We reserve the right to change the order of events. The St. Louis Wrestling Club, Inc. and the promoter are not responsible if contestants fail to appear in the ring due to conditions beyond our control, such as illness, injuries, accidents, travel conditions, weather conditions, etc. When possible, substitute matches will be made.

PAT O'CONNOR

Pat O'Connor Seeks to Silence Irritating Boasts of 'Superstar'

"Superstar" Billy Graham faces what could be his most demanding test since hitting St. Louis when the blond strongman opposes Pat O'Connor at Kiel Auditorium on New Year's night — Saturday, Jan. 1.

A former world champion, the spry O'Connor has made a career of chopping down bigger foes. Pat does not argue that his strength is equal to that of Graham. On the other hand, O'Connor contends his vast knowledge about balance, leverage and wrestling itself can vanquish the strutting "Superstar."

Not surprisingly, an irate Graham thinks his scientific ability has been downplayed. "I know plenty about basic wrestling, in addition to being the world's strongest man," maintained Graham. "My muscles are flexible and I am agile from dedicated weight-training. O'Connor is in for a surprise."

That may be doubtful. Few competitors prepare themselves as well as O'Connor does. Pat spends hours studying the styles of other leading contenders for the World Heavyweight Championship. He is adept at spotting someone's Achilles' heel.

"Graham knows quite a bit about the fundamentals," O'Connor noted. "Plus, his power is actually unreal. The man has no scruples about how he wins. But I have a few tricks up my sleeve. Maybe 'Superstar' will quiet down after New Year's night."

Ticket Sale Starts Dec. 23

The **window advance sale** for the program on **Saturday, Jan. 1** begins at the Arcade Building and Kiel Auditorium on **Thursday, Dec. 23** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Both box offices are closed Dec. 24, Dec. 25 and Dec. 26.

The Arcade Building and Auditorium windows open again on **Monday, Dec. 27.** The box offices are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except for Dec. 31 when both close at 3 p.m.

On Jan. 1, the day of the card, the Arcade Building box office is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Kiel window in the 14th Street lobby is open from 10 a.m. for the rest of the day and evening. The 15th Street box office opens at 7 p.m.

THE PRICES

$3.00 - $4.00 - $5.00 - $6.00

(All Seats Reserved)

MAIL ORDERS are being accepted by
The St. Louis Wrestling Club, Inc.
Mezzanine 10, Arcade Bldg.
St. Louis, Mo. 63101

Always enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your mail orders.

If mail orders are received after Dec. 29, tickets will be held at the reservation window of the Auditorium where they may be picked up after the doors of the building are opened at 7 o'clock the night of the card.

Telephone: 436-4400 during regular box office hours for ticket information.

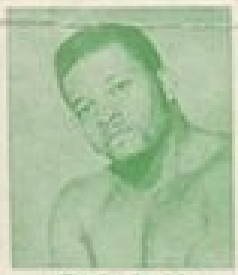
Telephone: 231-7487 anytime for information about the program or any other bulletin information that may develop. This service is for the fans 24 hours a day.

World King May Sign for TV

Whoever has the World Heavyweight Championship after titleholder Terry Funk tackles challenger Dick "the Bruiser" at Kiel Auditorium Jan. 1 will likely appear on "Wrestling at the Chase" some time during the month of January.

Popular Larry Matysik is the commentator as KPLR-TV presents the highly-rated show every Saturday at 9 p.m. and every Sunday at 11 a.m.

Tickets to see TV action in person may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Wrestling Tickets, KPLR-TV, St. Louis, Mo. 63108. Due to space restrictions, attendance for "Wrestling at the Chase" only is limited to those 16 years of age or older. Seating is first-come, first-serve.



Ernie Ladd

"Black Jack" Lanza

Ruthless Combination of Ernie Ladd, Lanza Launch Combat With Mitchell, Rufus Jones

Rufus R. Jones wants to get 1977 off to a rousing start as he and Guy Mitchell clash with Ernie Ladd and "Black Jack" Lanza at Kiel Auditorium Saturday, Jan. 1.

The 6-9, 315-pound Ladd has served notice he is running out of patience. "I expect to be in main events after Lanza and I crush Mitchell and Jones," Ladd stipulated.

Surely Ladd has a partner after his own heart. Like the "Cat," Lanza seeks victory at any cost and by any method.

Victory and Jones are almost constant companions. Rufus has been blasting all comers in the Carolinas recently. Jones has a solid and skilled mate in Mitchell for this important tag fracas.

RUFUS R. JONES

Ted Oates Returns

Ted Oates, a favorite wherever he goes, returns to tangle with Bob Geigel on the Kiel Auditorium program Saturday, Jan. 1.

His native Georgia has been the scene of several stirring triumphs by Oates in the last few months. Oates possesses blazing speed.

Geigel is a cool and cagey customer who knows just how far the rulebook can bend.

Vol. 31 Matches Held: St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 25, 1976 No. 1

The Wrestling Ring

Terry Funk, Bruiser Vie Saturday, Jan. 1 - Graham Confronts Wily O'Connor

Billy Graham

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"CURLY" NEAL

Globetrotters Guarantee Family Fun

Plan a gala indoor outing for the entire family when the fabulous Harlem Globetrotters invade The Arena on Friday, Feb. 18, 1977.

Age is certainly no barrier to enjoying the superb basketball and hilarious antics of the Trotters.

Some 82 million fans from 94 countries have laughed and cheered as the cage magicians opened their huge bag of tricks.

The Globetrotters have reached legendary status as they romp through their 51st season. To put their basketball skills in proper focus, consider this fact. The Globetrotters have lost only two — just two — games since 1962.

Meadowlark Lemon, the instigator of the unique Globetrotter offense, notes that winning is the prime goal. "But we want to make sure the audience has plenty of fun in the process," added Lemon.

Helping Lemon are such stars as dribbling wizard "Curly" Neal, Jackie Jackson, Dave Lattin, Dallas Thornton and Nate Branch.

Nothing is more enjoyable than seeing the Globetrotters, so be on hand at The Arena Feb. 18.

Order Tickets Early; Enjoy Trotters' Visit

Mail orders may be sent now for the Harlem Globetrotters' visit to The Arena on Friday, Feb. 18.

Tickets are priced at $3.00, $5.00, $6.00 and $7.00. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with mail orders, which should be sent to the Dick Esser Ticket Agency, Mezzanine 10, Arcade Building, St. Louis, Mo. 63101.

Designate how many tickets are desired from which price range. All checks and money orders should be made payable to the Dick Esser Ticket Agency.

The box office sale at The Arena begins Friday, Jan. 21. The window sale at the Arcade Building starts Friday, Feb. 4.

Kiel Dates Include Jan. 21

After the Jan. 1 card, Kiel Auditorium wrestling returns to Fridays. Action is slated on Jan. 21, Feb. 11, March 4 and March 25. More bills will be added later.

On any date, nobody likes the fool who throws. The St. Louis Wrestling Club offers a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction

Rolling Around the Mats

by LARRY MATYSIK

Reports about the demise of the spinning toehold have apparently been greatly exaggerated.

With the spotlight constantly on World Heavyweight Champion Terry Funk and his favorite grip, numerous contenders are inspired to develop a method to negate the famous spinning toehold.

Some work. Some do not. Harley Race thought he could counter the toehold every time until he was forced to submit one fall to Funk during a hectic struggle at Kiel Auditorium Nov. 26.

When Funk also managed to reverse a cradle for another fall and the victory, turbulent Terry could rightfully declare his success with the spinning toehold was the pivotal point in the duel. Race had taken

"No hold is impossible to break," admitted the kingpin. "If I — or my brother Dory Jr. — get the proper leverage with the toehold, though, an opponent must concede or risk crippling injury."

Few, if any, special holds ever scare Dick "the Bruiser," who is determined to dethrone Funk at Kiel Saturday, Jan. 1, 1977.

"The spinning toehold may not make Bruiser afraid," warned Funk, "but Bruiser doggone well better respect what it can do!"

DROP KICKS . . . Stan Stasiak, inventor of the "heart punch," is displaying his wares on the East Coast . . . Jim and John Valiant have leaped into main events in California . . . "Superstar" Billy Graham continues to boast about his prowess in arm-